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PRESS RELEASE

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IMA-E MWR Libraries upgrading to better serve customers

By IMA-Europe MWR Marketing

Installation Management Agency Europe Morale, Welfare and Recreation Libraries will be upgrading their automated library system that controls check-outs of library materials and many other library functions beginning Oct. 10.

“While the new European General Libraries Information System (EGLIS) is brought online there could be some short delays in serving customers,” said Meg Tulloch, the EGLIS team leader.

The new EGLIS system is expected to be in place by the middle of October, Tulloch said.

“Library customers may not notice a difference at all,” said Tulloch, “but in our busier libraries which circulate over 2,000 items a week—library customers may be delayed a few minutes during the system transition, and we just want to make our customers aware of the changes and possible temporary delays in service.”

Higher volume circulating libraries include Heidelberg, Wiesbaden, Mannheim, Hanau, Stuttgart, and Brunssum in Schinnen, Tulloch said.

The new EGLIS system is replacing the outdated PALS (Patron-Oriented Automated Library System), which ties together Army libraries in Europe. EGLIS is part of the new General Libraries Information System (GLIS) being implemented in U.S. MWR Army libraries over the next two years and will eventually link MWR Army libraries in the U.S. and Europe together in a single database.

“Ultimately, patrons will have greater control over their library accounts and be able to make requests for materials online,” explained Tulloch, who is the reference librarian for the European Regional Library and Support Center (ERL-SC) in Heidelberg. “The new system improves the circulation process, patron registration and online catalog we currently have and will facilitate sharing of materials.”

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The U.S. Army Installation Management Agency, Europe (IMA-E) is one of seven regional offices created Oct. 1, 2002, as part of an Army-wide initiative to focus management of Army installations around the world under one organization. IMA-E is responsible for all facets of support for U.S. Army Soldiers and families in Europe from driver's licenses to child care to force protection. As the landlord for all U.S. Army facilities in Europe, IMA-E is responsible for infrastructure and continuing the Army's strong commitment to environmental protection. Its higher headquarters is located in Arlington, Va.